

Subject: Welcome!

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

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To: Larry <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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December 4, 2013

Welcome!!

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it.

Romans 15:7 (The Message)

An Open Door

Before Paul's conversion to Christ he spent most of his energy hunting down Christians. He led a brutal persecution against the church in Jerusalem. It became so dangerous to be a Christian that all Christians but the apostles fled Jerusalem (check out Acts chapter 8). You might remember that it was Paul who held the coats of those who stoned Stephen to death (take a look at Acts 7:54-60). After Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus (see Acts chapter 9) he stopped persecuting the church and started receiving from the church. One of the most deeply influential things the church did with Paul as a new Christian was to accept him fully and unconditionally despite his history of brutality with them. It formed Paul's discipleship, theology, and oversight of churches later in his life. It is one reason he directs us to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. He experienced it personally.

Opening the Door Today

Most Christians I know are friendly. Most of them also have their preferences about church life, worship style, and pastors. While those preferences can be helpful for keeping up disciplines of worship, they can

also block our ability to welcome people as Jesus has welcomed us. We welcome people to the degree that we invest in their success even if they have different preferences about church life and worship than we do. We seek to welcome others the same way Jesus welcomes them. What matters is the fruit of discipleship that brings glory to God. Everything else is in second place to that.

An Open Door To Jesus

Is there some way Jesus wants you to be more open to Him than you have in the past? Is there a new area He wants to influence in your life? Will you welcome Him there in the same way He has welcomed you?

Coming Attractions

***Sunday, December 8, 2013* worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck**

This Saturday, December 7

Spread the joy!

Come one and all to join us at the St. Francis Stall at the Manakin Farmers Market Holiday Bazaar.

When: Show up on Saturday, December 7th, 10am to 2pm

What: 1. Bring an unwrapped toy to donate for children in the hospital with cancer collected by Mason's Toybox

2. Bring any baked good or homemade craft(knitted scarf, etc), wrapped to sell, we have St. Francis labels for it (no cheese balls please) .

A Mission Trip is planned for March 8, 2014-March 15, 2014. We will be taking a team to help with the continued clean up and rebuilding for those who were hit by Hurricane Sandy last year. More information is available from Jenna Nelson at jnelson561@gmail.com

Contribute to Typhoon relief in the Philippines through Episcopal Relief and Development. You may contribute through their website www.episcopalrelief.org. Go to the disaster relief fund section.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Tuckahoe Physical Therapy that the clients would be restored to good health and mobility

Metropolitan Richmond

For families of Metropolitan Richmond: For elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of Holy Cross, Batesville; Trinity, Charlottesville; St. Andrew's, Burke; Falls Church, Falls Church; St. Patrick's, Fall Church.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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